

# Success in Teaching Teens To Search the Internet: Playing a New Google Game



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## Why Teens Like Google

"[Teens] prefer clean, modest—but still cool—designs."

[www.google.com](http://www.google.com)

Ishizuka, Kathy. "Teens Are Tech Wizards? Not!"  
*School Library Journal* Apr. 2005: 24.

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## Why Librarians Can Like Google, Too

"The ultimate goal is to have a computer that has the kind of semantic knowledge that a reference librarian has," says Google's director of technology Craig Silverstein."

Levy, Steven. "All Eyes on Google." *Newsweek* 29 Mar. 2004: 58.

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## A Few Things About Teens

"[They]...achieved a success rate of 55 percent on Web tasks compared to 66 percent for adults in a previous Nielsen study"

*because they have...*

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## A Few More Things About Teens

- "insufficient reading skills,
  - less sophisticated research skills,...
  - a dramatically lower patience level....
- [and last, but not least,]

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• "...difficulty wading through  
and making sense of a lot of  
complex information"

(Ishisuka 25).

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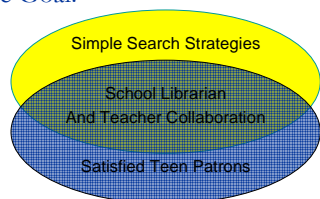
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The Goal:



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### Our Guidelines:

- 🕒 *Teens are impatient*  
Use initial search box, not Advanced Search
- 🕒 *Teens like to keep things simple*  
Teach only a few key strategies
- 🕒 *Teens want to be engaged*  
Make the lesson interactive

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### The 10-Word Limit or

1 2 3 4 5  
Searchterm "search term" -searchterm site:edu

+ 5 more possible search terms

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### Google Search Tips

- **double quotations (" ")**  
use to look for words in exactly the order in which you enter them  
"human rights"  
"affirmative action"
- **minus sign (-)**  
use to exclude a word from your results  
vikings -minnesota
- **site:edu**  
**site:org**  
**site:gov**  
use to limit your search to pages published by certain groups  
teens site:edu  
teens site:org  
teens site:gov

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### *Depression (mental disorder)*

*searched March 2006*

Search Terms	# of results
■ depression	169,000,000
■ depression –great	108,000,000
■ depression –great seasonal	3,020,000
■ depression –great seasonal FAQ	1,100,000
■ depression –great seasonal FAQ site:gov	15,700
■ depression -great seasonal FAQ site:gov symptoms	502

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### *The Great Depression (historical event)*

*searched March 2006*

Search Terms	# of results
■ the great depression	66,500,000
■ "the great depression"	13,200,000
■ "the great depression" site:edu	545,000
■ "the great depression" site:edu "black blizzards"	47
■ "the great depression" site:gov	98,000
■ "the great depression" site:gov "black blizzards"	9

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### *Playing the Google Game*

- With a partner, use the searching techniques you have learned to answer the following questions.
- Record the search terms you use and the number of results for each search.
- The team with the fewest number of results wins!

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### Question #1:

Can you explain how the author has used the raven as a symbol in Edgar Allan Poe's poem "The Raven"?

[www.google.com](http://www.google.com)

"Edgar Allan Poe" raven symbol site:gov (160 results)

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### Question #2:

How was Edgar Allan Poe related to Virginia Clem, and what is the lowest number of results you are able to get when doing a search about their relationship?

[www.google.com](http://www.google.com)

"Edgar Allan Poe" "Virginia Clem" site:gov  
(1 result)

"Edgar Allan Poe" "Virginia Clem" site:org  
(9 results)

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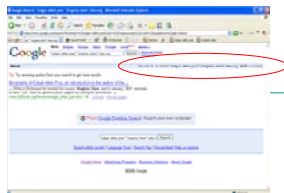
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### One Hit!



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#### What Our Students Say:

- 💡 I have always been annoyed with search engines because I could never get the websites I wanted on the topic I wanted...until yesterday. Becoming more familiar with search engines was very helpful for me.
- 💡 I thought the activity yesterday was very useful. I think it was very cool to learn that you can put in exactly what you want and find it without having to go through so much material.

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#### What Our Students Say:

- 💡 The internet information was VERY useful to me. I went home and looked up things. I used what we were taught, which narrowed my search down. I found exactly what I was looking for in less than 10 minutes, which normally would take me about an hour. I think the technique should be taught to other classes, so it will help them like it did me.

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## References

Calishain, Tara, Rael Dornfest, and DJ Adams. Google Pocket Guide. Sebastopol, CA: O'Reilly, 2003.

Ishizuka, Kathy. "Teens Are Tech Wizards? Not!" School Library Journal Apr. 2005: 24-25.

Levy, Steven. "All Eyes on Google." Newsweek 29 Mar. 2004: 48-58.

Milstein, Sarah, and Rael Dornfest. Google: The Missing Manual. Sebastopol, CA: O'Reilly, 2004.

Watkins, Katrine and Kathleen Elder. "The Google Game." School Library Journal Jan. 2006: 52-54.



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*Question:* Can you explain how the author has used the raven as a symbol in Edgar Allan Poe's poem "The Raven" ?

Search terms	# of results

*Answer:*

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*Question:* How was Edgar Allan Poe related to Virginia Clem, and what is the lowest number of results you are able to get when doing a search about their relationship?

Search terms	# of results

*Answer:*

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